

Reston Community Center

► Agency Mission

To provide programs and services that are sensitive and responsive to the diverse cultural, economic, social, recreational, and educational needs of community members of all ages. The provision of these services is in accordance with the mandates of the taxpayers of the Small Tax District 5 Hunter Mill/Dranesville.

► Trends/Issues

As defined in the Reston Community Center's Board of Governors 2000 – 2004 Strategic Plan, the RCC Vision is "to be the Center for culture, leisure and lifetime learning in the Greater Reston Community." Its Mission is:

- To provide a full range of quality programs and services for the Greater Reston residential and business communities including the arts, aquatics, workshops, education and training.
- To sustain and create community traditions through special events and outreach activities.
- To serve as an information resource for the community, and to provide facility rentals and related support for groups and individuals.
- To work cooperatively with other groups and organizations, to enhance the quality of life for all people living and working in the Greater Reston area.

In addition to its main facility at Hunters Woods Village Center, RCC renovated and added to its facilities an 8,500 square foot building located in Lake Anne Village Center that opened in September 1999. Complete rehabilitation of the 22-year-old building in the Hunters Woods Village Center has been accomplished over a 4-year period. Additionally, programs and services continue to be offered in numerous offsite locations throughout the community.

The Reston Community Center is fulfilling its role with excellence as demonstrated by the enormous growth of participation in its programs, (from 125,000 in 1997 to close to 200,000 people in the fiscal year just completed), and facilities. The utilization of RCC resources is at an all-time high. Usage increased by 60% during a period of time in which the residential population increased from 58,000 to 62,500, an increase of 7%. During this same period of time there has been tremendous growth in the employee population in Greater Reston to approximately 55,000. The combination of residential and business growth has helped fuel the increase in participation levels.

While Reston does not have its own local government, it does have a number of stable community institutions which operate in many ways similarly to departments or agencies of local municipal or town government. The Reston Community Center, along with organizations such as the Reston Association, Reston Citizens Association, Greater Reston Board of Commerce, Reston Interfaith, Reston Museum and Historic Trust, Arts Alliance of Reston and many others, participated in the Reston 2000 Task Force deliberations. While many recommendations were forthcoming from that process, the significant areas of concern revolved around economic growth and related transportation issues, community redevelopment, our education resources, and what can be most broadly characterized as "quality of life" concerns.

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The Center's operations are supported by the payment of a special property assessment tax on residents and businesses within the district. The current tax rate of \$0.06 per \$100 of assessed value which will generate an estimated \$4,097,585 in FY 2002.

While the community in general prospered in the years forward from 1997, like many areas in Fairfax County, it also experienced a widening gap between the most and least fortunate and greater ethnic diversity with predictable impacts on public institutions. The Reston Community Center is a significant resource for the community to utilize to provide an environment where economic disparities between participants are invisible and where diversity can be celebrated. It is the primary community institution providing community-building through shared event experiences, cultural amenities, recreation activities, learning environments for skill building, and spaces for personal celebrations and gatherings. This has been critical to Reston's ability to thrive as a community and to create a community spirit of inclusion and support for all its citizens.

RCC's ability to fulfill its mission has depended and will continue to depend on cooperative efforts with other Reston institutions to address community needs collaboratively. The discussions begun in the Reston 2000 Task Force deliberations clearly identified the need for our community institutions:

- To share their resources.
- To offer their particular assets to address community needs.
- To communicate with each other in a continuing process to assess needs, address needs, evaluate outcomes, innovate and problem-solve.
- To continue to work together to foster Reston's reputation of being an outstanding community in which to live, work and play.

For the RCC to continue its vital role in community-building, the Board of Governors has identified processes that allow for ongoing and meaningful community input. There will be a community needs assessment conducted every other year, the annual public hearing for budget and program development, and a variety of formal and informal information gathering tools in place for use by its clients and constituents. The most critical element of the RCC's success is its local governance by citizens of Reston selected for their service through the annual Preference Poll. This assures that the RCC responds in a direct and meaningful way to the community. As economic conditions change, the community's agenda will change. Through responsible fiscal policies, the Board of Governors has been able to direct resources to immediate needs quickly if warranted and provide for the means to do so without sacrificing core programs or operations.

Increased resources mean we are able to increase the speed and effectiveness with which we can respond to community demands, desires, problems or opportunities. Because the Board of Governors has spent considerable effort to educate the community about its processes of program and facility development, there is stability in its core functions and its existence is protected to a considerable extent by its managed reserve fund. The reserve is sufficient to protect the taxpayers' investment in the RCC infrastructure and its operations without unnecessarily sequestering too much funding and preventing the Reston Community Center from being a dynamic institution sensitive to its community. The effectiveness with which the Board of Governors has addressed the issue of resource management, is measured by the confidence of voters and the high degree of satisfaction with the RCC that is evident throughout the community and its use of its Community Center.

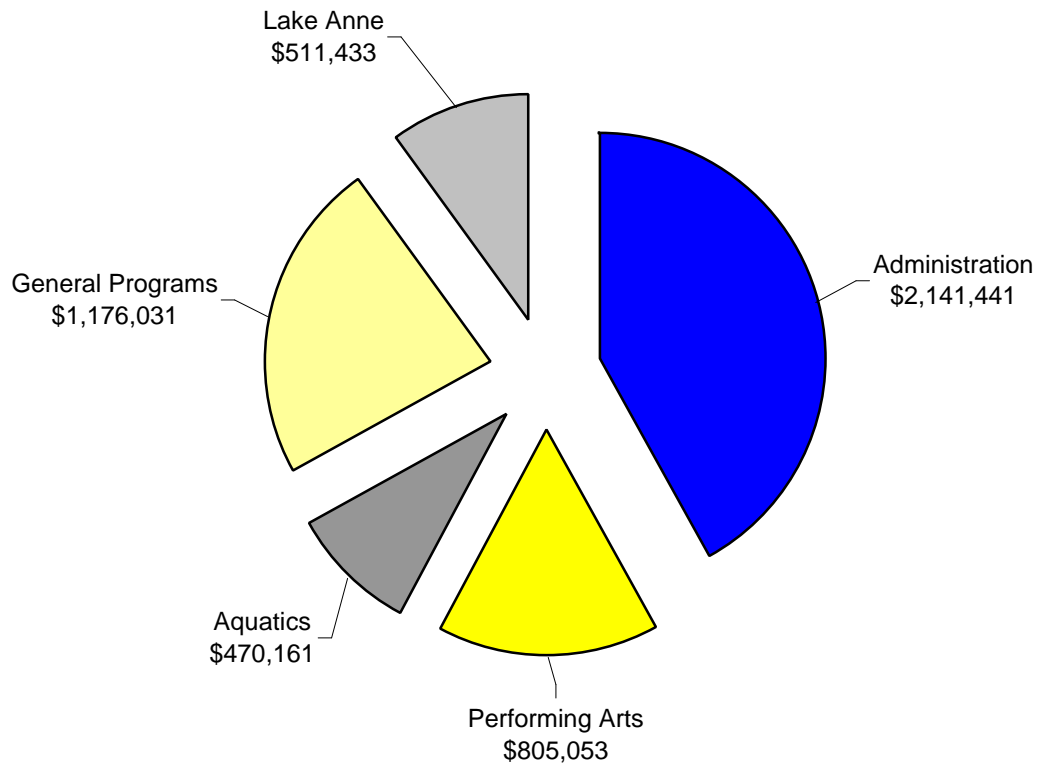
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► **Summary of All Agency CAPS**

CAPS Number	CAPS Title	CAPS Net Cost	CAPS Number of Positions/SYE
111-01	Administration	(\$2,169,144)	21/20.11
111-02	Performing Arts	\$687,713	5/5
111-03	Aquatics	\$245,161	4/4
111-04	General Programs	\$952,056	6/6
111-05	Lake Anne	\$426,433	1/1
TOTAL Agency		\$142,219	37/36.11

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Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Expenditures = \$5,104,119

Total FY 2002 Adopted Budget Net Cost = \$142,219